



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1104 North Westover BLVD, Unit 9
ALBANY, GEORGIA 31707

MAY 29 2009

Regulatory Division
200900566

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah District/State of Georgia

The Savannah District has received an application for a Department of the Army Permit, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), as follows:

Application Number: 200900566

Applicant: Colonel Thomas Macdonald, Garrison Commander
Fort Benning, Georgia 31905

Location of Proposed Work: The approximate 2,481-acre site is located southeast of the intersection of 10th Armored Division Road and Midwest Road, on the northwestern portion of Fort Benning. GPS coordinates of this site is Latitude 32.493963 N and Longitude 84.806735 W.

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers: This proposed project (69742) would impact 8.98 acres of wetland and 91 linear feet of stream for the construction and/or upgrade of training area infrastructure at the Northern Maneuver Training Area. Primary facilities include new training area roads/tank trails, existing training area roads repair, culverted and low water crossings, traffic signage, field training/staging area, and turning pads. New training tank trails and existing training area roads to be repaired total approximately 10.4-miles. The trail corridor with vegetation removal limits (clearing limits) is approximately 90 feet). In most cases, new or updated stream crossings will be installed where needed, 80% of which will be corrugated metal pipes (CMP). The remaining 20% will be low water crossings. Crossing types for each wetland/stream impact area are listed in the Wetland/Stream Impact Area Descriptions located in Appendix C.

Mitigation Plan

Fort Benning is proposing to mitigate these impacts by purchasing 63.6 wetland credits and 4,291 stream credits from the Kolomoki Mitigation Bank.

BACKGROUND

This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the US Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Georgia. The applicant's proposed work may also require local governmental approval.

STATE OF GEORGIA

Water Quality Certification: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, intends to certify this project at the end of 30 days in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which is required by an applicant for a Federal Permit to conduct an activity in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia. Copies of the application and supporting documents relative to a specific application will be available for review and copying at the office of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Water Protection Branch, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354, during regular office hours. A copier machine is available for public use at a charge of 25 cents per page. Any person who desires to comment, object, or request a public hearing relative to State Water Quality Certification must do so within 30 days of the State's receipt of application in writing and state the reasons or basis of objections or request for a hearing. The application can also be seen in the Savannah District US Army Corps of Engineers, Albany Field Office, 1104 N. Westover Blvd, Unit 9, Albany, Georgia.

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Savannah District must consider the purpose and the impacts of the applicant's proposed work, prior to a decision on issuance of a Department of the Army Permit.

Cultural Resources Assessment: The US Army Infantry Center, Fort Benning is the lead federal agency for this proposed action. Historic and Cultural Resources Surveys and Assessments were included in an MCOE EIS that is currently being performed by Fort Benning. As soon as the assessments are completed, a copy of the results will be forwarded to the appropriate offices for review. Fort Benning will meet all lead federal agency responsibilities pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, prior to any work occurring in waters of the US subject to the jurisdiction of the USACE.

Endangered Species: The US Army Infantry Center, Fort Benning is the lead federal agency for this proposed action. Threatened and Endangered Species Assessments were included in an MCOE EIS that is currently being performed by Fort Benning. As soon as the surveys and assessments are completed, a copy of the results will be forwarded to the appropriate offices for review. Fort Benning will meet all lead federal agency responsibilities pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, prior to any work occurring in waters of the US subject to the jurisdiction of the USACE.

Public Interest Review: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Consideration of Public Comments: The US Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the US Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Application of Section 404(b) (1) Guidelines: Project Purpose and need: Fort Benning, located approximately 80 miles southwest of Atlanta, is the home of the United States Army Infantry Center, 3rd Brigade 3rd Infantry Division, and various non-divisional and tenant units. The relocation of the USA Armor Center from Fort Knox, KY to Fort Benning will result in the stationing of approximately 14,000 additional personnel at the installation (including students). A majority of the facilities required for the Armor Center will be built at Harmony Church. New utility distribution systems and roadway upgrade are required to support the required facilities. Training area roadway improvements are required to provide safe and secure access into Fort Benning's training areas. Access to and within four major training maneuver areas is required to support mission training: OSUT Maneuver Training Area, Northern Maneuver Training Area, Good Hope Maneuver Training Area, and Southeastern Maneuver Training Area.

The objective of this project is to construct new and upgrade existing training area infrastructure roads and drainage to support increased access and training use. The current situation of the existing training roads of the Northern Training Area does not support the increased trafficability and training throughput associated with tracked vehicle use. If this project is not provided, mission support to Fort Benning will be reduced. Safe and efficient access to existing training land will be limited.

Alternative Site Evaluation: With regard to the project site location, Fort Benning is limited in spaces that can accommodate a training area of this size. A search was conducted for alternative sites and only one available site was found that could accommodate this project. Because of the network of existing roads throughout the Northern Training area, it allowed for the proposed tank trails to be placed on existing trails, therefore, minimizing the need for completely new road construction and reducing overall jurisdictional wetland/stream impacts. This area provided the best and only option for this training facility. Therefore, no other more feasible alternative sites exist on this military installation for this project.

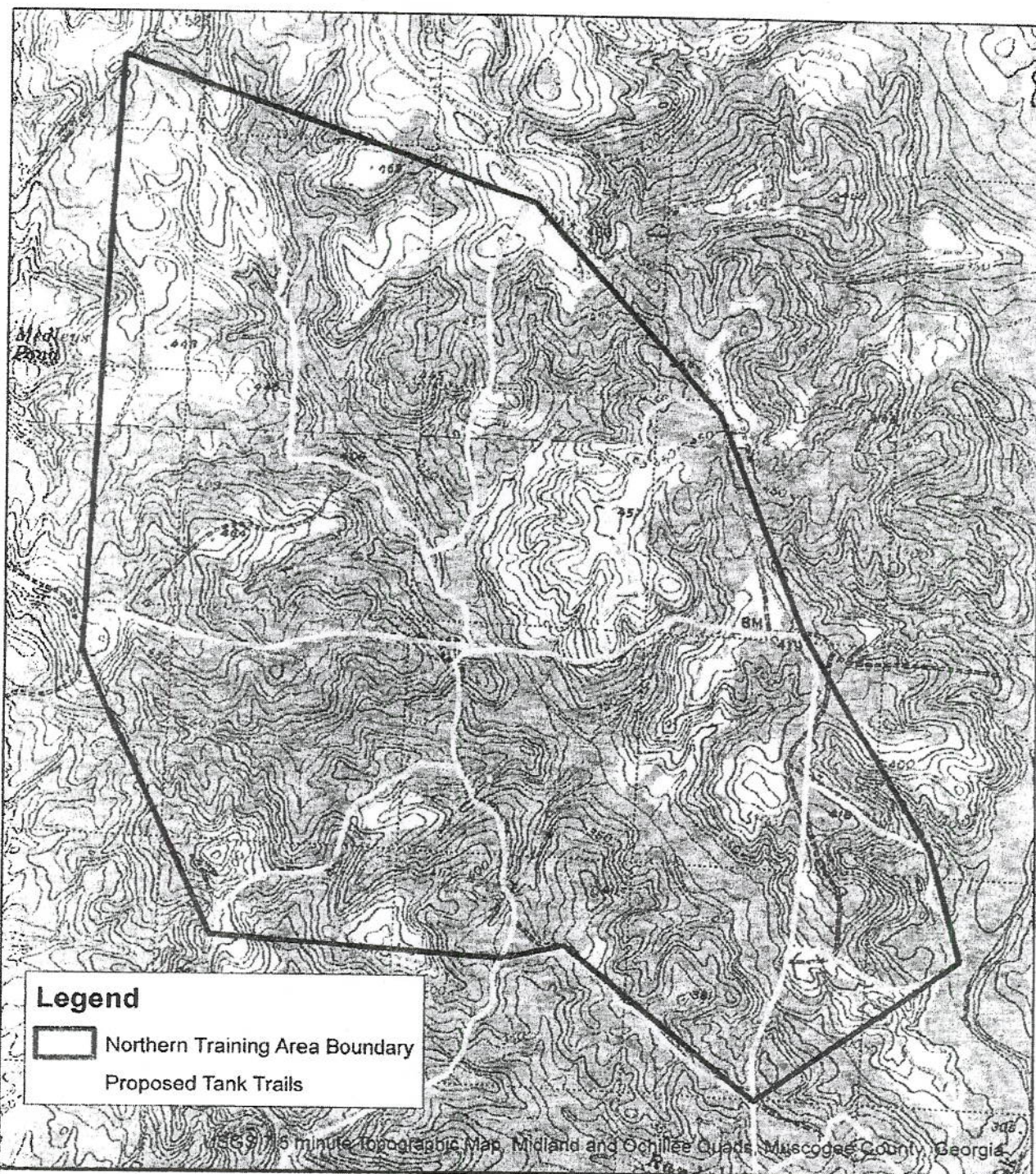
Avoidance and Minimization: This project site has numerous wetlands and streams throughout. It also has a number of existing roads and crossings. The existing roads and crossings would be used as much as possible. Some trails were relocated to avoid wetland areas... During the design process, the foot print of the project was adjusted and reduced to avoid wetland impacts. Approximately 13 acres of wetlands were avoided.

Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army Permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. The decision whether to hold a public hearing is at the discretion of the District Engineer, or his designated appointee, based on the need for additional substantial information necessary in evaluating the proposed project.

Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Permit should submit comments in writing to the Commander, US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Albany Field Office, 1104 N. Westover Blvd, Unit 9, Albany, Georgia. 31707, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Please refer to the applicant's name and the application number in your comments.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Thomas Fischer, at (229) 430-8566.

Enclosures



Northern Training Area Infrastructure Project (69742)
Fort Benning
Muscogee County, Georgia

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



Prepared For:
U.S. Army at Fort Benning

WILDLANDS

Figure 2
Topographic Map
April 2009

1305 Lakes Parkway, Suite 129
Lawrenceville, Georgia, 30043
Phone 770.682.9731
Fax 770.682.6164
www.wildlandsinc.com

Wildlands Project
No. 25202-20

**Jurisdictional Wetland/Stream Impact Descriptions
Northern Training Area Infrastructure Project (69742)**

Area: 1

Location: Northernmost section of range (map 1)

Impacts: Stream 188 (LF) Wetland 0.635 (acres)

Type of Impact: All wetlands within the corridor will be filled. No existing pipe, all streams within the corridor will be piped

Area: 2

Location: Northernmost section of range (map 1)

Impacts: Stream 0 (LF) Wetland 0.71 (acres)

Type of Impact: All wetlands within the corridor will be filled

Area: 3

Location: Northernmost section of range (map 1)

Impacts: Stream 100 (LF) Wetland 0.81 (acres)

Type of Impact: All wetlands within the corridor will be filled. No existing pipe, all streams within the corridor will be piped

Area: 4

Location: Middle section of range (map 2)

Impacts: Stream 162 (LF) Wetland 1.23 (acres)

Type of Impact: All wetlands within the corridor will be filled. No existing pipe, all streams within the corridor will be piped

Area: 5

Location: Middle section of range (map 2)

Impacts: Stream 58 (LF) Wetland 0.8 (acres)

Type of Impact: All wetlands within the corridor will be filled. A stream of 116 LF is present on the corridor and an existing pipe of 38 LF. USACE allowance for 20 LF yields an impact total of 58 LF

Area: 6

Location: Middle section of range (map 2)

Impacts: Stream 81 (LF) Wetland 0.18 (acres)

Type of Impact: All wetlands within the corridor will be filled. No existing pipe, all streams within the corridor will be piped

Area: 7

Location: Middle section of range (map 2)

Impacts: Stream 0 (LF) Wetland 0.16 (acres)

Type of Impact: All wetlands within the corridor will be filled

Area: 8

Location: Middle section of range (map 2)

Impacts: Stream 47 (LF) Wetland 0.3 (acres)

Type of Impact: All wetlands within the corridor will be filled. A stream of 96 LF is present on the corridor and an existing pipe of 29 LF. USACE allowance for 20 LF yields an impact total of 47 LF

Area: 9

Location: Middle section of range (map 2)

Impacts: Stream 91 (LF) Wetland 0.300 (acres)

Type of Impact: All wetlands within the corridor will be filled. A low water crossing is present now.

Area: 10

Location: Southeastern section of range (map 3)

Impacts: Stream 0 (LF) Wetland 0.19 (acres)

Type of Impact: All wetlands within the corridor will be filled

Area: 11

Location: Middle section of range (map 2)

Impacts: Stream 85 (LF) Wetland 0.37 (acres)

Type of Impact: All wetlands within the corridor will be filled. A low water crossing is present now.

Area: 12

Location: Middle section of range (map 2)

Impacts: Stream 87 (LF) Wetland 0.30 (acres)

Type of Impact: All wetlands within the corridor will be filled. A stream of 90 LF is present on the corridor and an existing pipe of 20 LF. USACE allowance for 20 LF yields an impact total of 50 LF

Area: 13

Location: Southeastern section of range (map 3)

Impacts: Stream 0 (LF) Wetland 0.16 (acres)

Type of Impact: All wetlands within the corridor will be filled. A bridge is present and is being replaced, but this will occur in its current footprint, therefore, no additional stream impacts will occur.

Area: 14

Location: Middle section of range (map 2)

Impacts: Stream 0 (LF) Wetland 0.017 (acres)

Type of Impact: All wetlands within the corridor will be filled

Area: 15

Location: Southeastern section of range (map 3)

Impacts: Stream 98 (LF) Wetland 2.80 (acres)

Type of Impact: All wetlands within the corridor will be filled. No existing pipe, all streams within the corridor will be piped

Area: 16

Location: Southeastern section of range (map 3)

Impacts: Stream 0 (LF) Wetland 0.015 (acres)

Type of Impact: All wetlands within the corridor will be filled

Area: 17

Location: Southeastern section of range (map 3)

Impacts: Stream 83 (LF) Wetland 0.002 (acres)

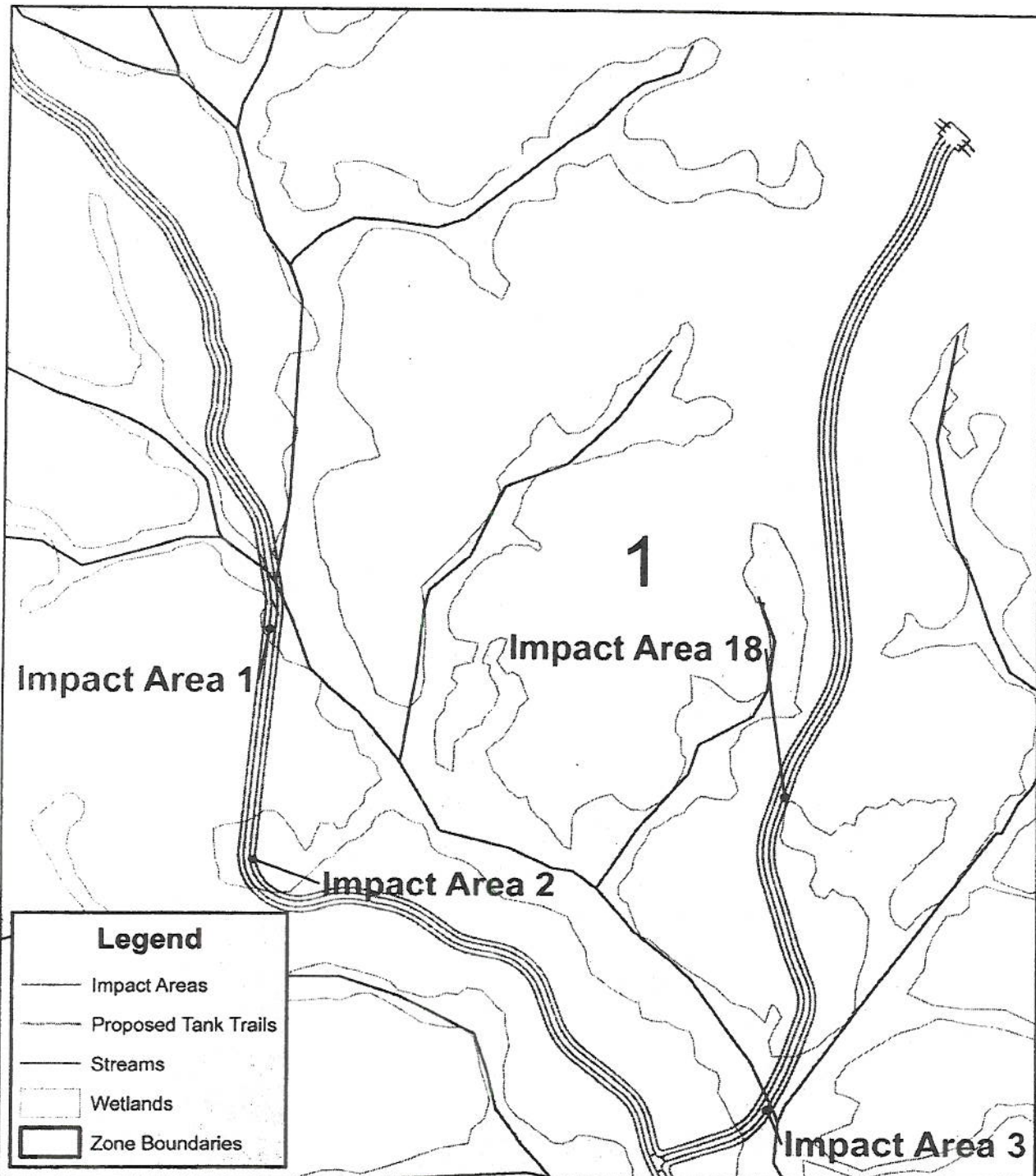
Type of Impact: All wetlands within the corridor will be filled. A stream of 85 LF is present on the corridor and an existing pipe of 29 LF. USACE allowance for 20 LF yields an impact total of 36 LF

Area: 18

Location: Northeastern section of range (map 1)

Impacts: Stream 0 (LF) Wetland 0.003 (acres)

Type of Impact: All wetlands within the corridor will be filled



Northern Training Area
Jurisdictional Wetland/Stream Impact Assessment
Fort Benning, GA



Prepared For:
 United States Army at Fort Benning
 Created By: JEQ

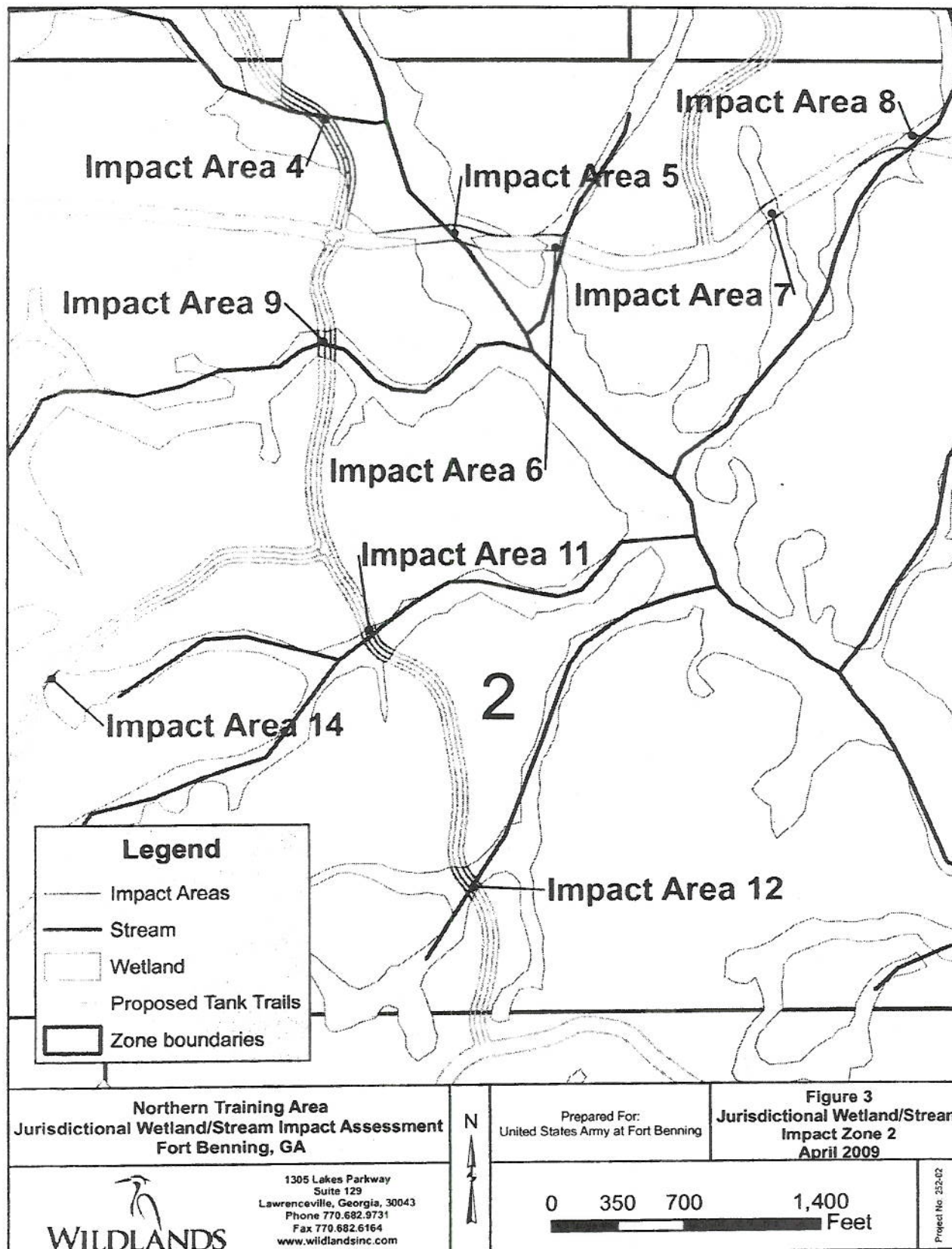
Figure 2
Jurisdictional Wetland/Stream
Impact Zone 1
April 2009

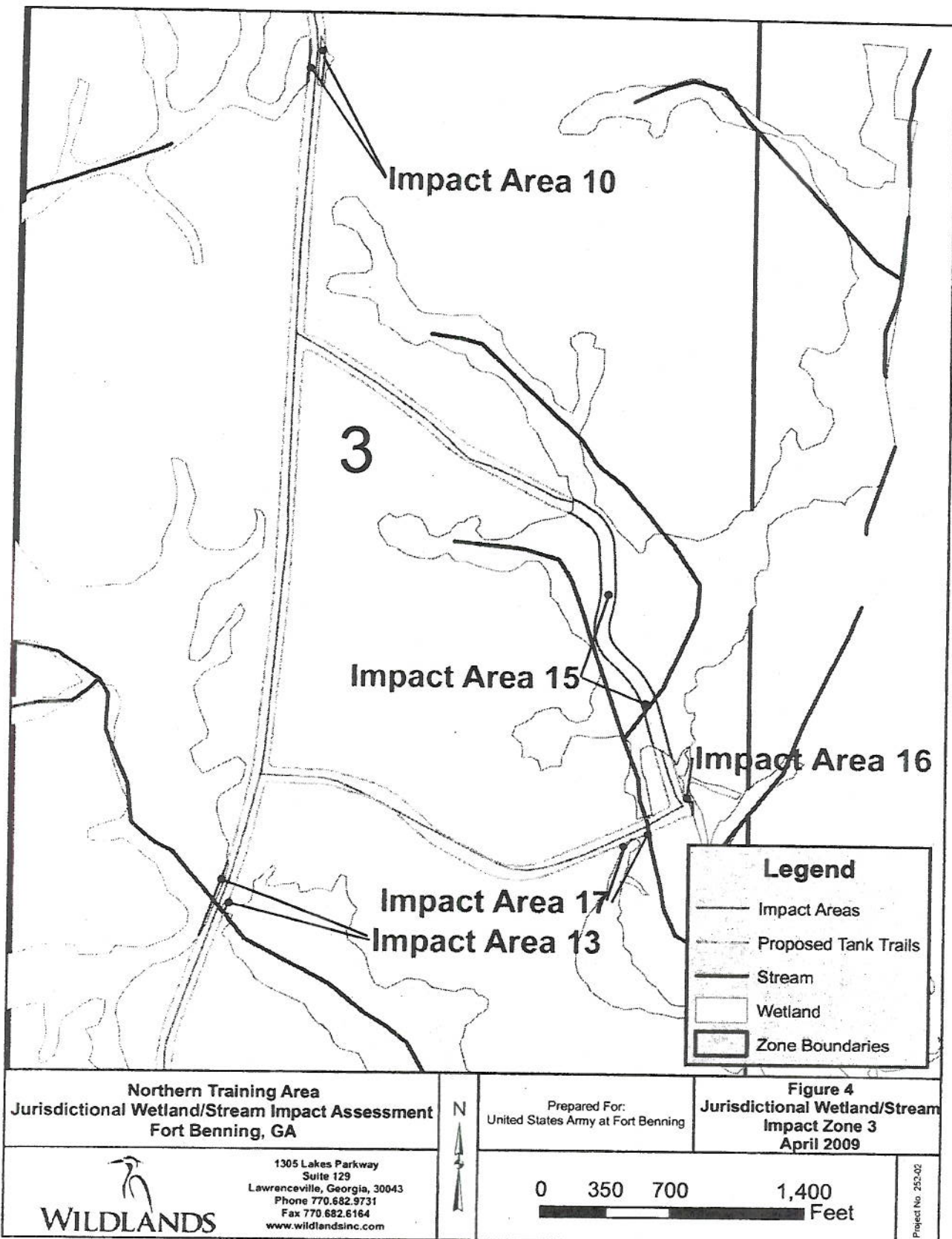


1305 Lakes Parkway
 Suite 129
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 Phone 770.682.9731
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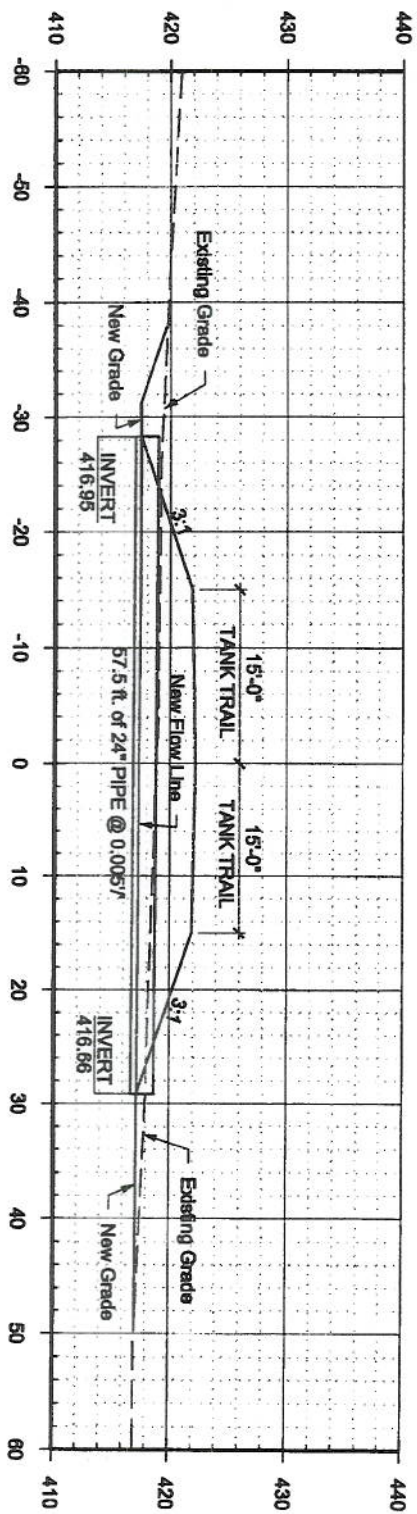
0 350 700 1,400
 Feet

Project No. 253-02





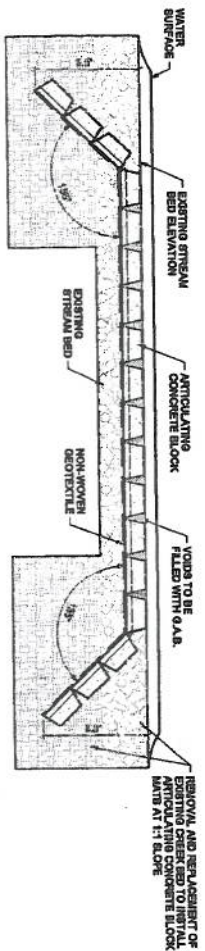
TYPICAL CULVERT SECTION



- * MINIMUM COVERAGE BETWEEN TOP OF PIPE AND THE TOP OF SUBGRADE/BOTTOM OF AGGREGATE PAVEMENT SHALL BE 18".
- ** PIPE INVERTS ARE BURIED 20% OF PIPE DIAMETER OR 6", WHICHEVER IS GREATER.

TYPICAL LOW WATER CROSSING

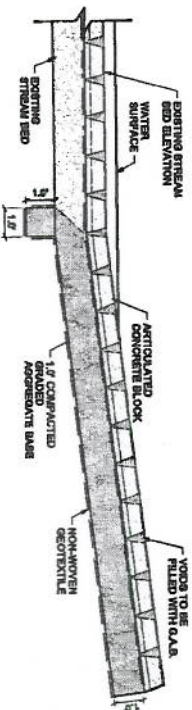
TYPICAL ARTICULATING CONCRETE BLOCK TANK TRAIL
STREAM CROSS SECTION



GENERAL NOTES

1. ARTICULATED CONCRETE BLOCK (A.C.B.) WILL BE 4000 PSI CONCRETE.
2. ARTICULATED CONCRETE BLOCK (A.C.B.) WILL EXTEND INTO THE CHECK BED AT A MINIMUM OF 1' BELOW THE GRADE LINE. THE MINIMUM DEPTH OF THE CHECK BED SHALL BE 1' BELOW THE GRADE LINE. THE MINIMUM DEPTH OF THE CHECK BED SHALL BE 1' BELOW THE GRADE LINE.
3. ARTICULATED CONCRETE BLOCK (A.C.B.) TOP SURFACE WILL MAINTAIN THE EXISTING STREAM BED ELEVATION.
4. VOID BETWEEN THE ARTICULATED CONCRETE BLOCKS WILL BE FILLED WITH G.A.B. UNTIL NATURAL BED LOAD FILLS THE VOID.

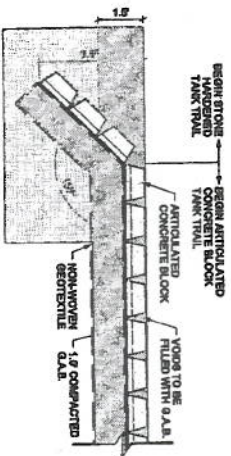
TYPICAL ARTICULATING CONCRETE BLOCK TANK TRAIL
STREAM CROSS SECTION



GENERAL NOTES

1. ARTICULATED CONCRETE BLOCK (A.C.B.) WILL BE 4000 PSI CONCRETE.
2. ALL Voids BETWEEN A.C.B.'S WILL BE FILLED WITH COMPACTED G.A.B. EXCEPT WHERE A.C.B. IS LOCATED IN THE STREAM FLOW.
3. GRADE SHALL BE SET SO THAT THE SURFACE OF THE INSTALLED A.C.B. IS THE SAME AS THE EXISTING STREAM BED.
4. VOID BETWEEN THE ARTICULATED CONCRETE BLOCKS WILL BE FILLED WITH G.A.B. UNTIL NATURAL BED LOAD FILLS THE VOID.

TYPICAL ARTICULATING CONCRETE BLOCK TANK TRAIL
STREAM CROSS SECTION



GENERAL NOTES

1. ARTICULATED CONCRETE BLOCK (A.C.B.) WILL BE 4000 PSI CONCRETE.
2. ALL Voids BETWEEN A.C.B.'S WILL BE FILLED WITH COMPACTED G.A.B.
3. G.A.B. UNDER A.C.B. WILL BE ONE FOOT THICK AND COMPACTED AS STATED IN SPECIFICATION WITH A LAYER OF GEOTEXTILE UNDERNEATH.
4. G.A.B. AT STONE HANDSOME TANK TRAIL WILL BE 1' THICK AS SHOWN IN DRAWING.

LWC	TOTAL	GRA	Q10	NORTHING	POINT A		POINT B						Q10 NORTHING		
					ELEV	NORTHING	ELEV	A	B	C	D	E		F	
LWC-0	TOTAL	107048.00	83.25	897.25479	2.143554460	250.35	2.104306458	250.19	24	20	24	24	6.60	6.60	6.60
LWC-2	TOTAL	108411.00	83.25	897.25479	2.143554460	250.35	2.104306458	250.19	20	12	24	24	6.73	7.25	9.24
LWC-3	TOTAL	111703.34	83.20	898.0147009	2.141017134	249.25	2.104306458	250.19	12	12	24	24	6.51	6.51	6.51
LWC-4	TOTAL	109484.78	83.20	898.0147009	2.141017134	249.25	2.104306458	250.19	40	20	16	24	6.88	6.86	6.20
LWC-5	TOTAL	109484.78	83.20	898.0147009	2.141017134	249.25	2.104306458	250.19	20	16	24	24	6.88	6.86	6.20
LWC-6	TOTAL	109484.78	83.20	898.0147009	2.141017134	249.25	2.104306458	250.19	20	16	24	24	6.88	6.86	6.20
LWC-7	TOTAL	109484.78	83.20	898.0147009	2.141017134	249.25	2.104306458	250.19	20	16	24	24	6.88	6.86	6.20
LWC-8	TOTAL	109484.78	83.20	898.0147009	2.141017134	249.25	2.104306458	250.19	20	16	24	24	6.88	6.86	6.20
LWC-9	TOTAL	109484.78	83.20	898.0147009	2.141017134	249.25	2.104306458	250.19	20	16	24	24	6.88	6.86	6.20
LWC-10	TOTAL	109484.78	83.20	898.0147009	2.141017134	249.25	2.104306458	250.19	20	16	24	24	6.88	6.86	6.20
LWC-11	TOTAL	109484.78	83.20	898.0147009	2.141017134	249.25	2.104306458	250.19	20	16	24	24	6.88	6.86	6.20
LWC-12	TOTAL	109484.78	83.20	898.0147009	2.141017134	249.25	2.104306458	250.19	20	16	24	24	6.88	6.86	6.20
LWC-13	TOTAL	109484.78	83.20	898.0147009	2.141017134	249.25	2.104306458	250.19	20	16	24	24	6.88	6.86	6.20
LWC-14	TOTAL	109484.78	83.20	898.0147009	2.141017134	249.25	2.104306458	250.19	20	16	24	24	6.88	6.86	6.20
LWC-15	TOTAL	109484.78	83.20	898.0147009	2.141017134	249.25	2.104306458	250.19	20	16	24	24	6.88	6.86	6.20
LWC-16	TOTAL	109484.78	83.20	898.0147009	2.141017134	249.25	2.104306458	250.19	20	16	24	24	6.88	6.86	6.20
LWC-17	TOTAL	109484.78	83.20	898.0147009	2.141017134	249.25	2.104306458	250.19	20	16	24	24	6.88	6.86	6.20
LWC-18	TOTAL	109484.78	83.20	898.0147009	2.141017134	249.25	2.104306458	250.19	20	16	24	24	6.88	6.86	6.20
LWC-19	TOTAL	109484.78	83.20	898.0147009	2.141017134	249.25	2.104306458	250.19	20	16	24	24	6.88	6.86	6.20
LWC-20	TOTAL	109484.78	83.20	898.0147009	2.141017134	249.25	2.104306458	250.19	20	16	24	24	6.88	6.86	6.20
LWC-21	TOTAL	109484.78	83.20	898.0147009	2.141017134	249.25	2.104306458	250.19	20	16	24	24	6.88	6.86	6.20
LWC-22	TOTAL	109484.78	83.20	898.0147009	2.141017134	249.25	2.104306458	250.19	20	16	24	24	6.88	6.86	6.20
LWC-23	TOTAL	109484.78	83.20	898.0147009	2.141017134	249.25	2.104306458	250.19	20	16	24	24	6.88	6.86	6.20
LWC-24	TOTAL	109484.78	83												